

Suddenly...it's winter!

First snow promises another wet year. FOTOPAGE, P.8



THE
**Inyo County
News-Letter**

Nov. 3
1978

60¢

Compiled by
John Heston,
Benett Kessler

A NEWS ALTERNATIVE ♦ EASTERN SIERRA NEWS SERVICE

FORUM

NURSE ANSWERS CHARGES P.20

B.K.'s COLUMN

WYMAN'S PARENTAGE P.23

MANZANAR

A "CARROT" FOR VOTERS? P.14

News Briefs

THE COUNTY
INYO COUNTY FREE

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On Tuesday,

THE ELECTION

MAR 9 1979

X marks the spot

CLOSED HEARING IN A MURDER CASE; COUNTY EMPLOYEES FIND A CATCH-22 IN RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTIONS; A 'FRISCO CABBIE IN A HARD FALL; AND JONES' WEIRD OPTION FOR JAIL

EVIN LAPPAS, THE 26-YEAR-OLD MOTHER OF three accused of slaying her step-father with a pistol, went into court for a closed preliminary hearing this week, and through her lawyers entered once more her dual pleas of not guilty and not guilty by reason of insanity. The public was excluded from the hearing at the request of Public Defender Dean Stout and his assistant in the case, a former public defender, Doug Buchanan.

Little has been revealed about the case since Lappas' arrest two weeks ago at a mobile home on Bishop's Barlow Lane. There officers had found the body of her step-father, Al Durney, sprawled on a couch, dead of "multiple gunshot wounds" thought to have been inflicted by his own .41 calibre pistol.

At this week's hearing only one witness, other than four officers, was called. He was identified as Robert Green of Bishop, who described to the court his acquaintance with the defendant, and about "conversations" he had had with her about the "family situation" where she sometimes lived with her mother and step-father and, often, one or more of her children.

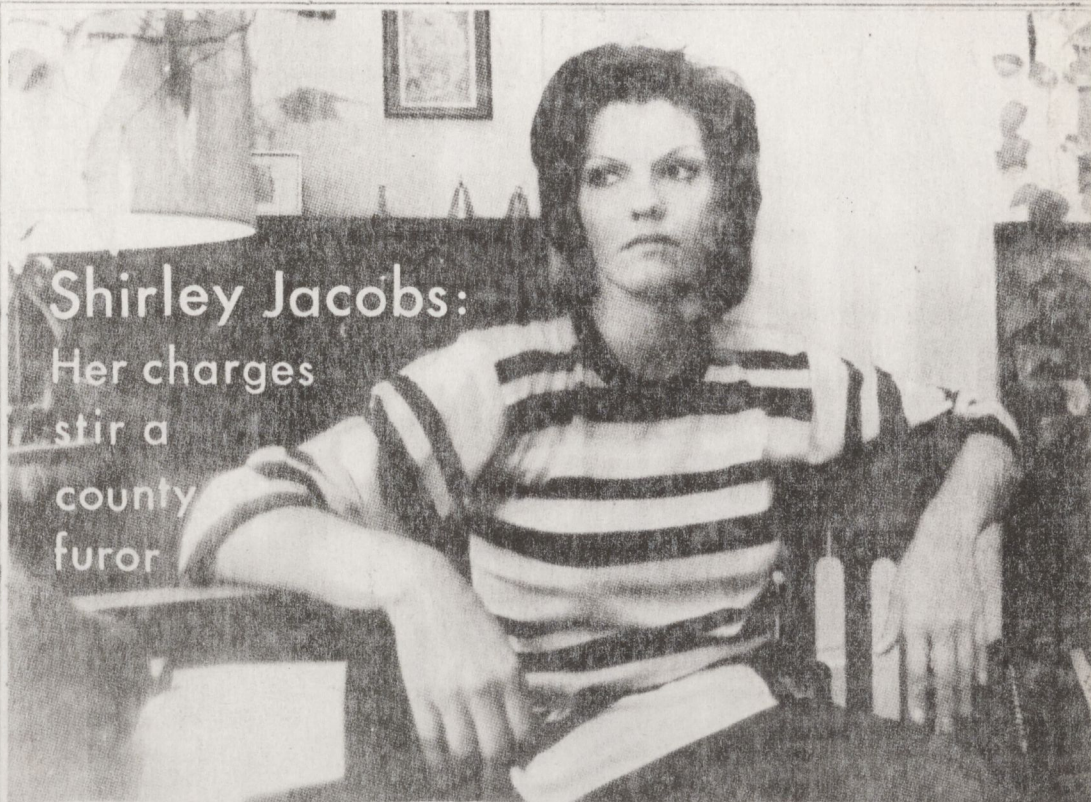
Asked about the nature of the "family situation," an official in the case said he "would not be inclined to indicate"

(NEWS BRIEFS on Page 3)

THE BIG ISSUES IN INYO: SUPERVISORS AND PROPOSITIONS ABOUT SMOKING AND HOMOSEXUAL TEACHERS IN THE SCHOOLS

AFTER THEY SORT, MORE OR LESS, THROUGH THE barrage of media material recently fired at them, Inyo voters will go to the polls on Tuesday to deal with a number of issues and candidates, some significant, others trivial, but all requiring a public expression of sentiment.

The voters are asked to decide everything from who will be their supervisors in County Districts One and Three to whether tobacco smoke is sufficiently irritating to
(See ELECTION on Page 4)



Shirley Jacobs:

**Her charges
stir a
county
furor**

"Abuses" of elderly sanatorium patients. Story on Page 2.

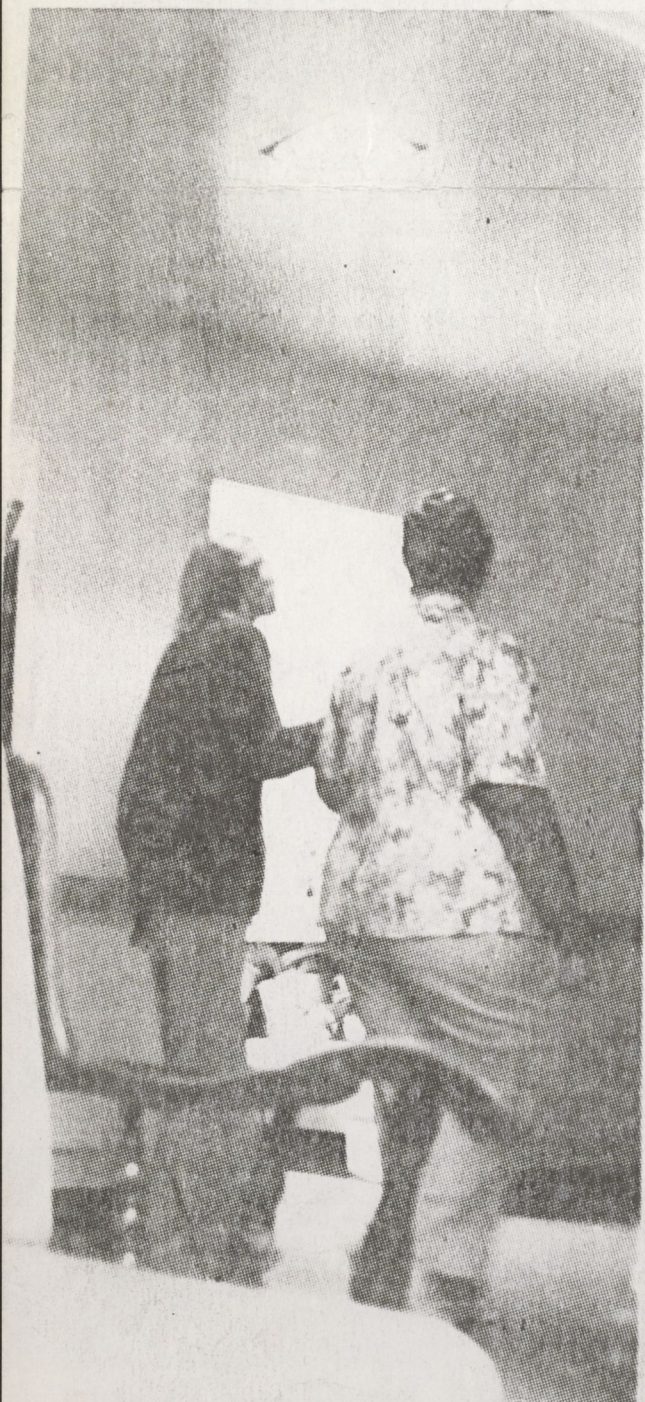
(See two letters in News-Letter's FORUM pages, 20-21.)

Reporters had been promised a free hand in talking to patients and personnel at the Lone Pine Sanatorium. However, when they arrived, they were told that Director Mike Cosenza had changed his mind. But Nurse Ann Capodanno, at right, made one final telephone call to Cosenza to check on his decision. It was final: no reporters beyond the lobby waiting room.



The Lone Pine sanatorium "abuse" charge is denied, but reporters can't talk to the patients

CHARGES OF "ABUSE" AND "BEATINGS" OF ELDERLY PATIENTS AT LONE PINE GO NOW TO THE GRAND JURY, AND ENQUIRANTS INTO THE ISSUE ARE BARRED FROM TALKING TO PATIENTS.



THE LETTERS OF THE PAST TWO WEEKS tell the story: the first one from Shirley Jacobs, a former nurses' aide at the sanatorium, who described in discomforting detail how she had seen old people beaten and abused, force-fed and doused with water; and then others, those of denial from a head nurse and from Sanatoriums Director Michael Cosenza (FORUM, Page 20-21).

But the flap, one that aroused suspicions that the county may wish to downplay the allegations if not cover them altogether, arose last week when Cosenza told reporters they could have complete free access to the patients and staff of the sanatorium, then later withdrew the offer several hours before the media representatives turned up at the sanatorium. They were met outside the hospital's front door by Nurse Ann Capodanno and informed of Cosenza's decision; they were admitted to the "waiting room" from which the accompanying photographs were made, and Capodanno, who recently contributed a poem about the state of her elderly wards to the News-Letter, returned to her desk nearby.

The nurse, who has been associated off-and-on with the hospital since 1971, said that the issue had been "blown out of all proportion" and that the problems involved lay much deeper than many people were "willing to recognize."

"It is a social issue. These people are not harmed here. We love them - and those that don't are quick to leave. The problem is that no one seems to care about them. True, nurses and aides are human beings and sometimes we get impatient with some of them - but it has never, never gotten to the point of mistreatment or in any way hurting any of them."

"Well, if that's the case," asked a reporter.
(Continued next page)

An aide assists one of the sanatorium "wanderers" Old, virtually helpless, they are dependant upon the staff. Many are "trying" on patience.

er, "Why then can't we talk to them ourselves and find out?" To that, of course, Capodanno had no answer.

"All of this," she reasoned, "is so blown out of proportion. I wish we could all clear it up. I was sick, just sick when I read Shirley's letter; it was terrible and ugly.

"There is such a fine line we have to walk here; sure the workers get irritable, but they are never hurt. It just isn't true."

Cosenza said in a telephone conversation that Jacobs had met with him and with other members of a county committee - him and two supervisors, Richard McDonald and Johnny Johnson, Assistant County Administrator Mike Hanford, a grand jury representative Joe Crimi - during the week, but that Jacobs declined to reveal names of witnesses to them. She said she will take the issue to the grand jury because the witnesses are afraid they could lose their jobs if they spoke out.

Ms. Jacobs told the committee that she had also talked to a sheriff's detective about the matter since she believes the "abuses" amount to criminal acts.

Supervisor Johnson said that he "knows the people at the sanatorium," but has not heard of any problems, that this is the first time such charges had been brought before the board. Ms. Jacobs claims that relatives of patients have filed complaints. Asked if the nurse, Capodanno, had known of any abuses on patients, Jacobs stated flatly that Capodanno was innocent of any such incidents, but that she was "upset" by people being hurt. "Ann would never hurt anybody. She always just is interested in helping people."

Part of the problem, avers Jacobs, is Cosenza's lack of supervision, and the lack of an assistant to oversee the two sanatoriums. She also claims that patients' belongings are being stolen.

A lack of staff members and a heavy turnover at the sanatorium - with workers quitting as soon as they can find better, easier work -

was seen by Cosenza himself as a factor in sanatorium difficulties. He admitted that it was difficult to find aides who can "emotionally handle the job."

Asked again why the reporters could not talk to the patients - patients considered sound and not under "custodial" or "mental" care - he said he wanted to protect their right of privacy, that the reporters might be admitted if they have a "personal" invitation from patients who wish to speak to them.

NEWS BRIEFS, Continued

the details of the situation."

Why the lack of details? The district attorney, L.H. "Buck" Gibbons, said that he for one is hesitant to discuss the case: "I want to insure that there is no prejudicial pre-trial publicity that would be a basis for a change of venue."

Asked about rumored problems between the defendant and her step-father, the district attorney would say only that there "is no justification for this homicide."

Meanwhile, Lappas is held in jail with a bail fee set at \$100,000 - an amount set by Judge Don Chapman soon after the incident. The bail amount was reconsidered at the week's hearing, but Chapman declined to change it. Lappas will appear in court again on Monday for arraignment in superior court.

SOME COUNTY EMPLOYEES SAY THEIR WAGE NEGOTIATIONS with the county this year made gains; others say not much; still others think nothing at all, depending on how "retirement fund" contributions from the county government are considered. The grumblings on the part of a few began when some employees found what they consider to be a Catch-22 in the county's agreement to pay about 50% of what employees pay into a retirement fund. That meant for county workers a 3% (approximate) increase in their take-home pay. But now it comes to light that the contributions of the

(NEWS BRIEFS Continued, P. 22)



The alcohol counselor's tipi

He is Joe White Bear who moved to Lone Pine from the Dakotas to serve as a counselor at the reservation's alcohol rehabilitation center. To save space at the three-bedroom facility, Joe put up a tipi to live in, using fires for warmth. But, as another employee admitted, Joe "spent a couple of nights" inside when the cold weather hit. Crowding at the facility may necessitate still more tents.



ELECTION, Continued

warrant its banishment from offices and public places, not to mention the election of a governor.

Another key vote will be that to elect a new congressman for the 18th district. The death of the popular William Ketchum started a scramble that resolved itself in the nomination of Democrat Bob Sogge and Republican Bill Thomas. Some voters in Inyo are still miffed at Thomas thanks to what many consider his neglect of this area in his campaign. And also because a lot of Republicans here wanted a candidate from the east side of the Sierra.

For Inyoans, however, the hottest contest is probably that between three candidates in the supervisorial race in the county's district 3. A tie in June between Challengers Moe Jacobson and Roger Glidden went all the way to the supreme court which decided, after all, that the people here would have to determine who would contest the seat now held by Wilma Muth. Sidewalk surveys indicated Jacobson and Glidden were running strong, but the question remains now as it did in June whether the two will split the anti-Muth vote and return her to office with a plurality, perhaps as a minority officeholder.

The supervisorial candidates in that race, and in the other between Incumbent Herb London and his opponent H.B. 'Lefty' Irwin, have been unexpectedly reluctant to launch more than a few public digs at each other; it was a relatively "clean" campaign all the way except for the predictable accusations of conflict of interest and who can best fall all over himself climbing on the Proposition 13 bandwagon.

The governor's race and the lieutenant governor's race were not so "clean." Investigative reporters in the southland have uncovered some unpleasant facts, as yet undisputed, about the two "Republicans, Younger and Curb. Rather than have to face questions about "underworld" connections and favors, Younger frantically escaped a press conference about the matter. Curb's early business dealings as wheeler-dealer rock n' roll recording producer may not set too well with the staid members of his own party.

The media has played an increasingly large part in recent elections; through advertising and through campaign coverage. This modest publication itself is publishing in this edition no fewer than seven and a half pages of political outpourings paid for by the candidates or their friends; there would have been more but for deadlines and printing capacity. The television is alive with pleas for votes for this or that candidate or cause.

Media aside, politicking in California and elsewhere has become a "personal" matter. The voters' mounting dislike of impersonal government have led them to demand personal contact with the people who woo them for votes and support. The handshake remains the single most effective vote-getter and woe to the candidate lulled into the mistaken belief that advertising alone can win an office.

If the voter escapes the seductions of political promises, he is still faced, as are the candidates themselves, with the question of whether sincerity (even when present) can do the job. Many hard-working and honest pols find themselves unable to move on their fondest programs thanks to a bullying dominion of

bureaucrats and regulations that bind him or her from higher authorities.

But in Inyo, as a rule, "issues" are less important to many voters; they vote for their friends, or their friends' friends, and that's that. Their indistinct impressions of the greater good go not only begging but ignored under the press of personal interest; some say that's what democracy is all about.

Compared with some of the candidates in the state races, the propositions come out looking somewhat nobler and more important than usual. There are eight of them:

Six and Five seem to have the highest interest ratio. One bans homosexuals from virtually anything having to do with schools and the instruction of youngsters; and the other bans smoking in most public buildings and offices. Both are considered "Puritan" issues and both are believed to be practically unenforceable thanks to a lack of manpower to ferret out the offenders.

Then there is Proposition 8, an offshoot of Proposition 13 that is meaningful today in places like Malibu which recently got burned out, and Laguna which slid into a canyon. The proposition deals with houses and property lost in disaster and says it cannot be reassessed (higher) when rebuilt.

Proposition 7 would increase the categories of first-degree murder that can be punished by the death penalty or life confinement; it toughens up on other sentencing too.

Proposition 4 is a crack-down on the accreditation (now considered somewhat lax) of chiropractic schools. And Proposition 3 permits the sale of land purchased with Caltrans (See ELECTION on Page 22)

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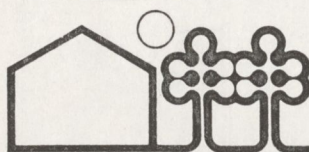
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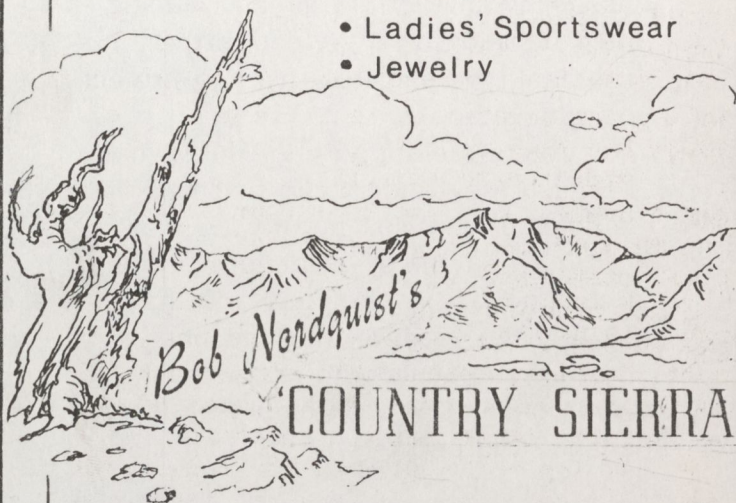
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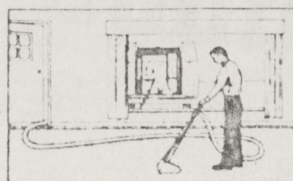
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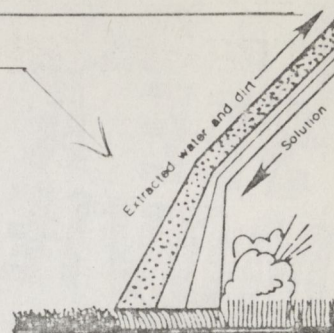


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Assemblyman Chimbole **didn't**. On the most important issue facing California voters in years, he was one of those incumbents who refused to take a stand.

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Voters are supporting Phil Wyman because they understand that he's the candidate who isn't tied to the "promise anything — spend everything" politics of the past, and that 1978 is the year we must replace those incumbents who are... things won't change in Sacramento until we change the people who run our state government.

That's why Proposition 13 co-author Howard Jarvis has formally endorsed Phil Wyman. He knows that



Phil Wyman



Chimbole

Phil Wyman is the candidate who can honestly carry the spirit of Proposition 13 to the State Assembly.

On November 7, make Howard Jarvis' choice your choice and keep the taxpayer's revolt alive.

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VOTE

X RANDY DAVIS

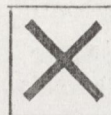
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- YOUR interest is efficient county government concerned with YOUR needs. By her own words, the incumbent supervisor has let us know that county government is "inefficient," and that there is "petty graft," that our roads are in "terrible shape."

Let's end all that. This year, YOU have a chance to make REAL CHANGES. Both of my opponents have personal interests to protect; I have YOUR interest in mind, AND NO CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.

VOTE
Nov. 7



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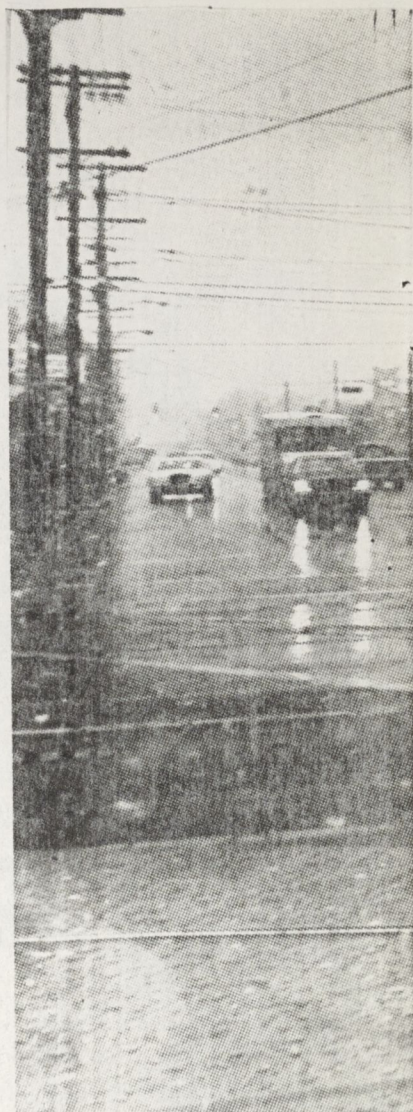




At a Big Pine highway project, Flagman Alvin Bowman stands in the cold, wet snowfall to direct traffic over new paving.

First snow ends a long, balmy fall, and winter sets in

THE SNOW ENDED AS ABRUPTLY AS IT HAD BEGUN, AND ON TUESDAY THE VALLEY AWOKE TO BRIGHT SUNSHINE. BY WEEK'S END, HOWEVER, A NEW STORM MOVED IN WITH THE THREAT OF MORE "REAL WINTER."



Traffic slows down, head



Where golfers played in warm sun the day before, the Bishop club's 5th hole is covered with snow, its flag drooping wet and forlorn.



Erik Sonnenberg samples the touch of new snow.

News-Letter FOTOPAGE



With amazing determination, undaunted campers cook breakfast in the snow at a campground near Bishop.



Cross-country riders abandoned bikes and



News-Letter FOTOPAGE

lights flash on; and a pedestrian hurries across the wet intersection at Main and Line.



Photographers came out in number to record the cold event. At left, a couple from Westminster selects a choice snow scene near Aspendell.



Up from his home at Fountain Valley, John Powell readies his Polaroid.



headed for warmth.



At Izaak Walton Park, the snowfall brightened rustic fenceline.

SENATOR STIERN

was a co-author of the proposed state spending limitation plan (SCA 42) back in April, 1977, well in advance of Proposition 13.

SENATOR STIERN

was one of the first elected officials to urge that the state money surplus be returned to taxpayers.

SENATOR STIERN

has consistently reflected the viewpoints of the 16th Senate District as expressed by District voters in answers to his questionnaires.

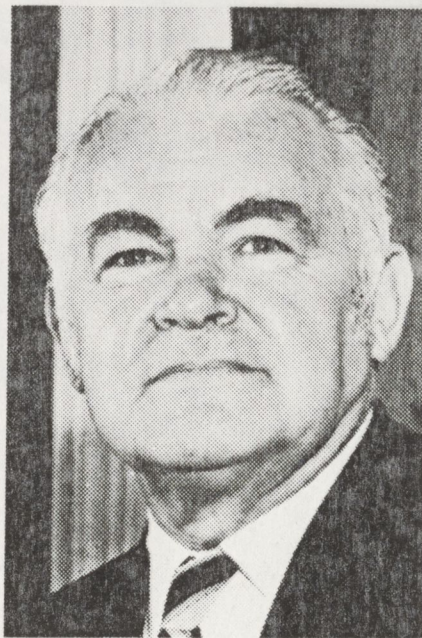
SENATOR STIERN

historically has favored strong voter involvement in local government such as keeping the office of county superintendent of schools elective. And on November 8, 1977, Inyo County voters also supported this concept by 68.4%.

We need

SENATOR STIERN'S

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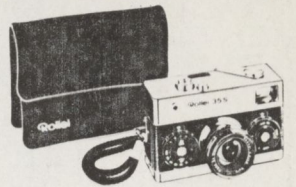
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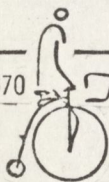
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VOTE NOV. 7

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...FOR WILMA MUTH !

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TAKE A GOOD LOOK

What
REALLY
counts...

...is what's
on the
record

HERE ARE THE FACTS:

'If you happen to be "out," and you want "in," it's easy to make charges and accusations. It's easy to be critical of what in fact has been good county government for the First District of Inyo County.

But it's not so easy to do a good job for the people. That takes hard work, insights and experience, and a real wish to put aside personal interests and find out honestly what the majority of the people expect of their government.

I'm proud of my record, and I am proud of my position on important issues that have affected the lives and prosperity of the people of Inyo County. I'm running on my record. What follows is only a part of it:

My opponent **implies** a conflict of interest with the Department of Water and Power. I lease land from the DWP; what stock owner in Inyo County doesn't? But the record shows that I voted FOR the original lawsuit against groundwater pumping, and I have consistently fought DWP - when I thought it was wrong - all along.

And here is more of my record:

I have supported the idea of a controlled growth for Inyo County - a controlled growth that the people have shown that they want.

I have worked for better traffic circulation, a plan to reduce traffic congestion.

I have consistently fought to keep down the size of government and government costs, and I needed no taxpayers' pressure groups to tell me to.

I have pushed for a County Services Building for Bishop, and have seen to completion a plan to develop needed county acreage (from DWP) for expansion of facilities to better serve the people at Bishop.

I helped in development of the Sunland Dump, to replace 26 costly dumpsites here.

Developed a county "self-insurance" plan which saved a quarter-million dollars.

I led the fight to increase DWP taxes. DWP must pay its fair share.

I successfully negotiated with state and federal representatives to finance local projects such as the Millpond, Senior Citizens projects and planning programs. And a lot more.

I think proven action is better than promises and implied accusations that are unproven on the record. After all, what really counts...is what's on the record.

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT ELECTION YEAR.
VOTE, AND VOTE RESPONSIBLY

Mine is a record of sound, rational, economic government. And it is also a record of close, personal contact with my constituents and with what they expect of Inyo County's leadership. I have no conflicts of interest with any person, business interest or agency...That's on the record. On November 7 you can vote with confidence to re-elect

HERBERT LONDON

SUPERVISOR,
DISTRICT 1

Manzanar: The state springs a new plan to rebuild and restore the old camp from the ground up



THAT THE OLD MANZANAR RELOCATION CENTER will be rebuilt as a state park is practically a foregone conclusion. All "public hearings" and required red-tape aside, the decision seems already to have been made. Or so says State Parks and Recreation Land Agent Andrew McGuckin.

When he was asked this past week if in fact the hearings are just an exercise and if the new park is already decided upon, McGuckin said "It's more or less decided...the general concept of a 495-acre site, although things could change."

But he did hasten to add that "As far as I know, the state would listen to public comment."

And before it's over, there may be some of that. At Lone Pine and Independence, the two communities most affected by such a park, the views are mixed. Lone Pine Chamber Manager Pat Farlander said "I think they may have lots of problems...What about insurance if they use barbed wire around the whole thing? And if they build the original types of latrines, the Lahontan Water Board may have something to say. Local people feel they are being blamed for the camp being there in the first place. It was not their idea, it was the government."

And if the State of California has no better luck than has Inyo County in dealing with the Department of Water and Power, then the proposed park could hang fire forever. The state needs to lease the entire 495 acres from the City of Los Angeles and, toward that direction, there has already been a letter to DWP's property man, H.B. Jeter.

Says Jeter: "We don't have any position on this. We're sort of surprised. I had gone to the site with a state man. We talked about 15 acres for development, and now we're not sure what to think. Personally, I'm not in favor of it. There was a suggestion for developing one or more structures at the museum."

The park plan, unbelievably, calls for a near-exact rebuilding of the Manzanar concentration camp. In the eyes of many such a

project would be at best a reminder of past guilt (the hurried, panicky round-up of American citizens stripped of their property and herded into such camps), and, at worst, a remote "tourist" attraction that may or may not really attract tourists and in either case dump another bureau and its restrictions into a county already up to here in bureaucrats.

At Los Angeles this week, Sue Embry of the Manzanar Committee (a Japanese-American organization dedicated to caretaking at the old camp) attended a public meeting at which the camp renovation project was discussed. She said her committee prefers an alternate state plan which, as she described it, is "more than just a clean-up project, but less than a full-scale reconstruction of the camp."

That plan would build one or two "barracks" buildings, reconstruct the barbed-wire fencing (How, after all, can a concentration camp be adequately convincing without barbed wire?), and provide landscaping and "self-guided trails" for visitors.

Embry said her committee would also like some attention given to the pre-war period at Manzanar with focus on the American Indians.

As for the concern over a state fait accompli, Embry said "That was our concern too. We wanted a public meeting to have our say." At the meeting, Embry was told, but she remains unconvinced, that state officials have not taken a definite position.

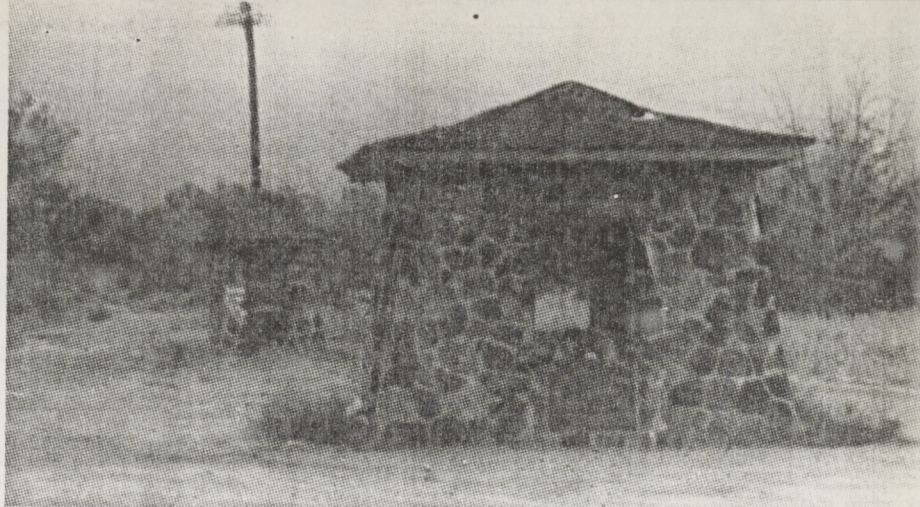
And where did the idea originate? No one seems certain, even those among the state's parks and recreation personnel. Apparently it "emerged" in some planning room.

The Inyo parks and recreation director, Jim Angelo, said the state completed a study on the development as far back as 1974 - and that the present director at Sacramento "wants to clear up some of the old studies by taking action on them - or deciding not to."

And there was other speculation: that the development plan might be an election-year "carrot" dangled before the voters, especially the business people, who might see in a tourist attraction help for a sluggish economy.



Sue Embry at Manzanar Monument
The committee had some questions



Tourist appeal at Manzanar Relocation Center?
Or just a painful reminder of a guilty past?

...a rancher's view

Photos: John Heston

A *News-Letter* photographer encountered Rancher Sandy Kemp at a Lone Pine saddlery store. Aware that Kemp's Samataguma Ranch grazes cattle at Manzanar, he asked Kemp about the state's plan to develop the area. Kemp, like many ranchers, was candidly outspoken:



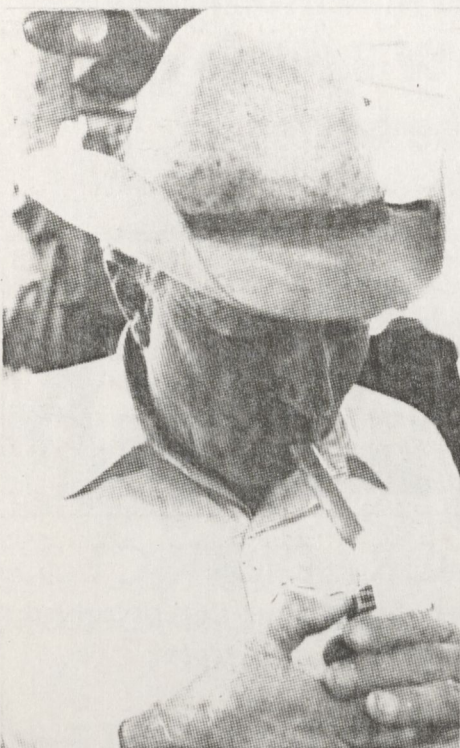
"Manzanar? Yeah, I guess I have a few acres out there, don't know how many. The state? I think the whole idea is stupid!..."



"...If people think the BLM is bad, well, the state is worse. You can't even pull off the road and have a picnic in a state park..."



"...The state says you have to go to a particular area. I think developing the place is a goddamn lousy idea. Another waste of money..."



"...but it wouldn't hurt us; just be a bother. We've got a few thousand acres around there...."



"...Hell...it's that Jerry Brown again. What's he gonna do next?...."



"...Hey, doesn't that thing ever run out of film....?"



Please vote Nov. 7

We are so privileged to have voting rights, without fear, in our country. So many other countries are not allowed this same privilege which we enjoy.

PLEASE exercise *YOUR* right to *VOTE* on November 7.

Thank you.

H. B. 'Lefty' Irwin

"I will appreciate your support"

I WANT THE JOB TO HELP YOU THE PEOPLE - NOT FOR THE MONEY OR PRESTIGE.



ELECT

**The one who after 20 years
as a government employee
KNOWS things can
be better**

ROGER

GLIDDEN

**SUPERVISOR, DISTRICT 3
COUNTY GOVERNMENT - RESPONSIVE AND RESPONSIBLE
WITH NO CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

**RESTORE COMMON SENSE
TO COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

**VOTE
NOV. 7**

RE-ELECT WILMA MUTH



Wilma Muth - "She knows...She cares."

your full-time
SUPERVISOR

- * does listen to
her constituents
- * does work for
the taxpayer
- * does strive for
efficient and re-
sponsive local
government

VOTE NOV. 7

—

SUPERVISOR, DIST. 3

AT LLOYD'S

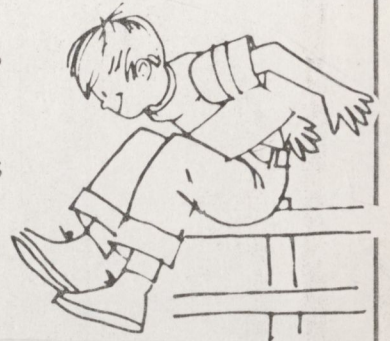
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Big 10% DISCOUNT on all children's clothing!
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all; men, women, children...See them at Lloyd's
today!)



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Senator Stiern knows the truth about Bob Sogge.

For three years Bob Sogge was a member of my Senatorial staff, working as a field coordinator. In that role, Bob in effect was working on behalf of many of the people he now seeks to represent as Congressman.

In those three years, I personally observed Bob to be energetic, innovative, loyal, and concerned and thorough in his approach to problems presented him by citizens of my Senate District.

I believe these personal characteristics would make him a fine Congressman. I urge voters in the 18th Congressional District to support Bob Sogge for Congress.

Walter W. Stiern
WALTER W. STIERN
State Senator



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Larry Chimbole and spending:

"As your Assemblyman, I've learned first hand you can't control government until you control how much it spends."

NEW LAWS AUTHORED & SUPPORTED BY ASSEMBLYMAN LARRY CHIMBOLE

- * Big income tax rebates for this year
- * Better homeowner and renter relief and extra income tax breaks for the elderly.
- * Indexing so cost-of-living raises can't increase your taxes.
- * \$100,000 income tax exemption on gain from selling your home.
- * More voter control over bureaucratic regulations.
- * Spending restrictions to force state departments to improve.

...and...

FURTHER CHIMBOLE ACTION TO CUT WASTE AND CUT TAXES

- * Fought for SCA 42 - the toughest state spending limit.
- * Carried bill to end business inventory tax.
- * Wrote sunset bill to cut out unneeded boards and programs.
- * Opposed legislator pay raises and refused to accept his.

Re-elect

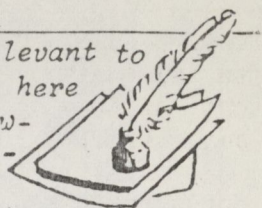
Larry Chimbole

Assemblyman, 34th District

FORUM

LETTERS AND COMMENT

The News-Letter welcomes letters and comment relevant to current public issues. The editors will publish here those considered timely and stating concise viewpoints. Letters and statements should be addressed to PO Box 531, Independence 93526. The editors remind News-Letter's readers that publication of a letter does not necessarily imply either agreement with its content or a guarantee of its accuracy; it is FORUM's goal merely to provide open discussion.



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"PATIENTS THAT TRY OUR PATIENCE," BUT NO ABUSE AT THE LONE PINE SAN

To the Editors:

I have worked at the county sans for 3 yrs - 2 yrs at Big Pine and over a year at Lone Pine facility. In my 3 years I have never seen a patient abused in the manner that we were accused of.

What I have seen from housekeepers, kitchen employees, aides and licensed nurses is love.

Our old people are hugged, kissed and treated with great affection. We do have patients that try our patience and ones that are extremely difficult to care for physically due to their illness, but they get the best that we are capable of giving. We have a few that are wanderers, and are trying on the nerves because they are constantly trying to slip away, but we don't like to restrain these people to make it easier for us because we feel that it (would) demoralize them and eventually they become wheelchair-bound.

My girls have constantly worked short (of help) with 10-12 patients apiece that have to be dressed, bathed, fed. Besides the care that they have to give these elderly citizens they have charting that is referred by state regulation to be done which also eats into their time for the patients. Sometimes after days of working with only four or five aides to care for 40 patients, sometimes working six days a week or extra hours to help fill in for another shift - we all get a little tired and irritable. Especially when a girl decides to call in sick or not show up because she has other things she would rather do.

We take care of the elderly that no one else wants. They are the parents, grand-parents, great-grandparents of the people in this valley. Some visit - maybe twice weekly, or once a month or a year, or never. No one wants to work here, no one wants to care for these people. They would rather be on welfare, or wait on tables - anything but work up here on the hill; that's the pits.

It's hard work and it's rewarding in its own way. Without these people, we wouldn't be here on this earth.

If you want to speak of abuse then the charge at times should be turned around because there are days when my girls are bitten, kicked, scratched, their hair pulled, spit on, cursed and yet they can still smile and say 'don't do that.' How would you like to be treated like that?

If it wasn't for us where would these people of the valley be? At home with their children who don't want them. No place is perfect. We all have a dream of the perfect place to care for the elderly - a place where physical, occupational, speech, psychiatric therapy could be available. A place where we could let our wanderers loose, free to roam without the worry that they might wander out into the desert and lay helpless. A time when the citizens would feel free to come and help

feed or take a patient for a ride or a walk.

The citizens of this country are all afraid of growing old and therefore fear to be with the elderly because it's a constant reminder that one day we will be like them.

The people that work with the elderly care for them or they wouldn't be there. There are other jobs that could be done and I feel these girls that stay are concerned with the elderly because the ones that don't care soon leave.

The elderly are like children and have to be cared for. They spent the best years of their lives raising us and now it's our turn to care for them.

The biggest reason that has been given for leaving the san has been too many patients to care for, and being unable to give the care that they feel was necessary for the comfort of the patients.

Isn't it a shame that we turn our backs on the aged? Would you turn your back on a helpless baby?

- Jane Jordan, RN
Head nurse, LPS
Lone Pine

(Editor's note: It is clear that Nurse Jordan is sincere and that she has much of value to say. It is also clear, in view of current social problems - the emphasis on "youth" and what appears to be a widespread public fear of aging - that Americans care little about 'the old folks' that once were cherished members of each family in health or disease. It may also be added, irrespective of the current charges, that the county administration is lax in fiscal and moral direction of the sanatoriums, bending (as always) to the demands of a few 'friends.' Sanatorium employees are notoriously underpaid, a fact which encourages 'welfare' and 'call-in-sick' situations, and many sanatorium employees are hired as 'part-time' help, the county once again neatly avoiding the benefits accorded county workers, and once again involving itself in the 'hiring-firing' game. The facts are not yet out in the 'abuse issue,' but News-Letter feels that Jordan is 'right on.' For more in that unhappy situation, and for insights into the workings of some county departments, see the following letter from Sanatoriums Director Mike Cosenza.)

Eastern Sierra News Service:

In a telephone conversation on Nov. 1, 1978 we discussed your desire to visit Inyo County Sanatorium to interview several patients. As I understand it, your interest in interviewing those patients and in investigating the facility in which they are residents arises at least in major part as a result of charges made against employee-conduct in that facility by Shirley Jacobs.

The charges and accusations being made by Shirley Jacobs initially came to my attention in a telephone conversation with her on

Oct. 3, 1978. Ms. Jacobs repeated those charges in a letter to me dated Oct. 4, 1978, and she brought them to the attention of the board of supervisors by letter dated Oct. 12.

Believing that good health care is everyone's business, and having no desire to stifle Ms. Jacobs' charges, I telephoned Inyo County Grand Jury Foreman Clyde Philbrick, on Oct. 23, 1978, to apprise him of the situation and to invite any inquiries which the grand jury might care to make. I followed up that telephone call by sending Mr. Philbrick a packet of relevant letters and materials, including the letters to me and to the board from Ms. Jacobs.

Ms. Jacobs again repeated her charges at a meeting set up by Supervisor McDonald at the Lone Pine facility on Oct. 26, 1978, which was attended by two supervisors and by representatives of the administrative office, the grand jury and the welfare department. At that meeting, Ms. Jacobs specifically declined to provide any evidence or substantiation of her charges and accusations.

If you have questions which you would like to ask concerning the operation of Southern Inyo Sanatorium, I would be glad to meet with you at a mutually convenient time. If you desire to view the facility, I would be glad to select a time and give you a guided tour. However, I have been advised by legal counsel (Inyo district attorney's office) that I should not allow you an unescorted access to any part of the facility other than the public reception room. Specifically, you may not go through that facility with camera and tape recorder and you may not visit with residents of the facility unless you have an invitation to do so from the resident or the residents' guardian or conservator. Please keep in mind that some private citizens live their private lives at this facility and providing them good health care is not consistent with uninvited and uncontrolled visits of the news media.

Although I operate the largest county department in terms of manpower, I do not have an assistant or chief deputy. Therefore, I cannot delegate my responsibilities which I have discussed in this letter. On the other hand, if you desire to interview some of my employees on their own time, that is their business and whatever arrangements you make with them on their own time does not concern me.

Finally, I want you to understand that I treat all complaints about the facility seriously. I have personally interviewed all the employees whom I feel are relevant to Ms. Jacobs' charges. Although my investigation of those charges is an ongoing matter, I want you to know that as of today's date I have been unable to substantiate any of her allegations.

- Michael Cosenza
Administrator
Inyo County
Sanitoriums

((Editor's note: News-Letter is not unaware of the director's, or of the district attorney's, concern, and extends its thanks for the invitation for a "guided tour." Without seeming rude, however, News-Letter declines the invitation, holding the view, as it does, that a "guided tour" of the sanatorium under the given circumstances would be about as productive of real information as a guided tour of the Whitehouse in the days of Watergate. The "guided tour" syndrome, like the "press release" syndrome,

is a malaise of our times; it is News-Letter's sincere belief that unless and until responsible media representatives are enabled to get their own information - and are willing to - then the public is denied information about the agencies which it supports through tax monies. Until, as Mr. Cosenza earlier promised, News-Letter is allowed to interview patients - some of whom may be victims of mistreatment if Ms. Jacobs' charges are to be believed - then it must consider the possibility that the sanitoriums and its director and the county administration must have something that they prefer, collectively or individually, to conceal from News-Letter's readers. The editors, meanwhile, will attempt to develop other sources for its information about this and other county departments. News-Letter's staff holds the same beliefs as responsible newsmen everywhere; that "closed" government is bad government; that anything less than "open government" is always damaging to the public and its concerns and, in this case at least, perhaps to the elderly patients at Southern Inyo Sanatorium who have no voice to the public.)

SUPERVISOR MUTH AND "CANDIDATE'S NIGHT" CHARGES; A LETTER OF REBUTTAL Editor:

At last Thursday's candidates' night (held by the League of Women Voters), we were alarmed by the charges made by Wilma Muth against county employees whom she refused to identify. She accused county employees of graft, poor management, and ingrained feather-bedding. Some of these offenses were called to our attention two years ago when we served with Foreman Moe Jacobson on the Inyo County Grand jury, but Mrs. Muth refused to correct them.

The office where the jury found an employee who was not performing his functions was identified and the jury recommended terminating the individual. Mrs. Muth did everything in her power to retain that employee. Other specific personnel policies that the jury found lacking have yet to be acted upon and are now acknowledged by Mrs. Muth.

The incumbent had adequate power then to correct the abuses she has cited and she should have used it. Proposition 13 is the result of voter dissatisfaction with ineffectual leadership on the part of our elected officials and was not meant to be a crutch for those individuals. Furthermore, Mrs. Muth is naive to believe that Proposition 13 gives her any additional powers that she has not had during her tenure on the board.

Several months ago this same supervisor charged that a local businessman was bribing unnamed county employees. By her statements Mrs. Muth has defamed and cast doubt on many good conscientious employees of this county who would be more than willing to join with Moe Jacobson to eliminate inefficiency and unnecessary expenditures that waste taxpayers' money.

- Members of 1976-77
grand jury,
Kathleen Huber
Albert White
Ruthann Jones

(See FORUM editor's note on Page 22)

FORUM, Continued

(Editor's note: The above letter was written by members of the grand jury of which Mr. Jacobson was foreman; it arrived late Thursday, at the eleventh hour one might say, affording little time for a rejoinder by Incumbent Candidate Muth. However, in the interest of fairness, News-Letter contacted Ms. Muth at her home by telephone, and she afforded the editor this statement:

"The statement is weird and wild.

If they were listening to the candidates' night questions, where Moe talked about leadership, my answer was that most county employees are loyal and dedicated. It is from the employees themselves that I was made aware of the inefficiencies of management in certain county departments.

"When I was board chairman, Moe came to me and sat in my house and I identified very serious problem areas. The jurors did not come to me, the board chairman, to solve the problems of personnel.

I wanted to solve problems, not create headlines. Moe refused to co-operate. I don't know why.

I am amazed that so many feel that I am Superwoman and that my vote is the only one necessary to do anything. It takes three votes on the board to act."

ELECTION, Continued

dollars to other state agencies, an issue not only tolerable but reasonably benign.

Proposition 2 generally rearranges bureaucrats. It would change the Public Utilities Commission's ability to designate one particular commissioner to hold hearings, investigations, etc., and issue orders subject to commission approval, and nobody in Inyo thinks for one minute such a commissioner would take on the DWP, even if PUC continues after the election to hold such power. Citizens' groups are backing this one, fearing that PUC hands over too much power to single individuals.

Proposition 1 would continue the Veterans' Bond Act, providing home and farm aid for California's veterans. \$500 million in state bonds would be sold to continue the loan program.

And there are other issues, other candidates, locally and statewide. The problem lies, or so it seems in Inyo, in the matter of sifting out the ambiguities in all. Voters like clear-cut issues, as they clearly demonstrated when Proposition 13 came up in June. But here and elsewhere, a lot of grey pervades the questions and the candidates which all seem to have a fine, gloomy ring to them, and a forlorn sound in spite of dazzling self-assurance. Government is bigger, much bigger, and is likely to continue so, and a great number of people feel alienated; as in "public hearings" that are occasionally trotted out by bureaus and agencies and which always seem to have a predictable outcome - more regulation - no matter what the "input" is. The candidates and the officeholders preside at the slaughterhouse and manage to come up clean with no blood on their clothes; as a consequence, nearly all are heartily mistrusted, and few have provided any real services useful enough to be remembered.

It is all very like a summer re-run.



E.F. "Lucky" Mancini and help from the jail

When the county probation department leased a Mormon Church building at Independence as a girls' home, it had no provision for furnishing the place. Some citizens volunteered used household items - in this case an automatic washer-dryer in so-so condition - and Mancini's inmate assistants went around with him to gather it up. "People have been just fantastic in helping out," says Mancini, but still more furnishings are needed.

NEWS BRIEFS, Continued

county may never reach the pockets of the employee - unless he or she stays on the job in Inyo County, or other state or local job, until retirement. He cannot, in short, draw his retirement money upon quitting the job, as a number of unhappy employees are now discovering. It goes into a county account. Asked to explain the situation, Assistant Administrator Mike Hanford said that "by law we can't put the money into the employees' account. That is what was negotiated. They had asked for a number of things, and this was one they indicated would be acceptable." As for the employees' discontent with the "small print in the contract," Hanford said there must have been some misunderstanding or, as he put it, "a communications gap. I don't think this is a big deal."

ANOTHER SEX OFFENSE THAT RESULTED IN THE JAILING of a defendant from Death Valley this past week added at least some variety in the increasing number of sex offense complaints coming from there. Aaron Cottle, Jr., an employee of Furnace Creek Ranch, was arrested for committing "an illegal sex act" involving another male. Last week, a ranch employee was arrested for an assault to commit rape after his intended victim was beaten so badly as to require hospitalization. The latest Death Valley incident brings to three the number of sex offenses currently on the court's books.

(NEWS BRIEFS Continued on Page 24)

Notes from B.K.



BENETT KESSLER

CAN ONE LEGISLATE MORALS? History says no, but there are always those that persist. And is smoking a moral issue? Proposition 5 would restrict smoking in public places. I doubt if it could be enforced even if it passes. Although I loathe with a fine intensity the tobacco lobby and its ability to put \$5 million into a political campaign to keep us smokin', I've got to go along with the people that produce our lung cancer; I figure legislation can never replace common thoughtfulness and good manners anyhow (Most decent people will put out their ciggie if asked), so I'm casting a vote for letting people kill themselves any way they want to.

AS FOR HOMOSEXUAL SCHOOL TEACHERS, I think the proposition would start a good old-fashioned witch-hunt that brings to mind the big Commie-hunt of McCarthy days. And besides, there's not one person in 10 who can spot a gay anyway if that one chooses to go underground, or, as they say, in the closet. And, guess what, if that issue passes Inyo stands to lose some good teachers, if they're discovered.

DID YOU KNOW THAT DWP HAS YET TO SIGN THOSE LEASES FOR THE COUNTY on the Lone Pine Airport and on Diaz Lake? How childish can you get.

GOOD NEWS IN THE PROSCENIUM DEPARTMENT: Playhouse 395, our very own county thespian organization, plans a revival of *Harvey*, the story about the invisible rabbit, etc. Bishop's Peggy Horn is directing the effort which is already in rehearsal. Would you believe a FIVE-WEEK rehearsal? That's a lot, but whatever 395's system is, it seems to work; the group manages to deliver good shows that are happily lacking in the usual amateurish home-town ham. The problem with Playhouse 395 is neither its casts nor directors; nor its scripts. People invariably like the productions. The problem lies in the fact that, without a "home" to work in, only one show a year is possible. Or so claim the local theatre-watchers. Does anybody out there have any room for a homeless theatre group?

AND SO WHO IN FACT ARE CANDIDATE PHIL WYMAN'S MOM AND DAD? He wants it clearly known, contrary to widespread rumor, that he has no filial association with the Owens Valley foe, Rosalyn Wyman, a former L.A. city councilwoman, or with her husband Eugene Wyman, the prominent Democrat. In Inyo County such fine points as who your folks are can make a difference in an election; especially if somebody started the story that Mom is Roz Wyman who while serving as councilwoman could find no favorable vote ever to cast for Inyo County.

VERY PLEASANT PEOPLE DEPT: Gerry Budlong, a planner in the county planning section who so far hasn't let "the plan" get to him. He's one of those assigned to the General Plan problem and therefore one who has a real task ahead. (Will it ever get done?) Gerry's hard-working, so we're told, and eager to please.

LOOK FOR THE CLOSE OF A BIG PROPERTY DEAL AT MAMMOTH. Word has been around that the Mammoth ski entrepreneur, Dave McCoy, is buying the Mammoth Mountain Inn. Our source tells us that McCoy plans no great hostelry for the visiting skiers - just a place for the employees of the ski lift. Last year, jobs by the hundreds went begging because imported labor, attracted at first by high wages, departed as fast as a schuss downhill when they found there was no place to live. Mammoth's housing shortage won't be bothering McCoy if the deal goes through; the Inn can house hundreds. And if early-season snow is any indicator, it looks like another big year on the mountain.

LEAVE IT UP TO "REGULATIONS" TO FOUL UP A GOOD IDEA. The Lone Pine Chamber of Commerce wants to plant trees on the main street in order to spruce it up - if "spruce" isn't too much of a pun. The trees would be permanently placed and a great attraction. But "regulations" along the highway will allow only one or two trees per block.



IS THIS CRITTER YOURS? He, she or it has been raising hob with the traffic and with some flowerbeds at Lone Pine. At practically any hour the animal can be seen wandering far afield from its home pasture where a barbed-wire fence has more holes than a shrimp-net, and bigger ones, too. Our Man in Lone Pine, Frank Burns, says people are voicing complaints.

ONE OF THE FEMINIST MAGAZINES ADVISES ON HOW TO GET rid of a bore at a party: Carry an empty cocktail glass around and when you get collared by one, say "Pardon, but I have to go get a drink." Another: Suddenly appear panic-stricken and say "Oh my God, I forgot to call the office!" and run. But my favorite, and one of my own, is perhaps less diplomatic: "Sorry, you're not my type." That usually ends it - for good.

And...MAY THE NEWS IN YOUR DAY BE GOOD NEWS...every day.

Sincerely,

BK

NEWS BRIEFS, Continued

A SAN FRANCISCO CAB DRIVER DISCOVERED, somewhat to his dismay, some territory far more formidable than his hometown hills this week. The cabbie, 30-year-old Jim McCallister, and three friends ventured naively unprepared into the High Sierra near Mt. Whitney when the snow began. They were making a downward retreat when McCallister slipped and fell 30 feet. His companions lost him in the dark and went on their way to find help. The sheriff's posse rescue went on the search for the fallen man, but it was one of the companions, Michael Williams, who returned to find and protect his lightly-clad friend. McCallister had been wearing a light jacket and carrying a "day-pack," apparel and equipment considered unlikely for practical service in the Sierra's sudden snows. He was finally airlifted out suffering a concussion, frostbite and hypothermia. So extensive were his problems that he was transferred from Southern Inyo Hospital to a special care unit at Loma Linda Hospital.

AS USUAL, WEATHER SPECULATION AND PROGNOSTICATION is rampant in an area where the weather means dollars in the pocket. At Mammoth, some weather-watchers are predicting that the 1978-79 season will be "the ultimate winter," that is a winter with neither too much, nor too little, snow. Although the wet onslaught of last winter never reached the record '69 blizzards, there was still "too much snow" and at times the ski lifts were closed. What the ski fans and the people who cater to them want is "about 104% of normal" snowfall. The '77-'78 snows caused avalanches, clogged roads and highways - and not a few deaths. Already, "eight or nine" inches of snow blanket the Mammoth slopes and they're making pools with high stakes on when "the big Thanksgiving snow will hit."

ONE OF INYO'S MORE CANTANKEROUS DEFENDANTS finally managed it this past week - literally talked himself into a term in the penitentiary, although officials on all sides were trying to save him some troubles. John Lester Jones had appeared in court on a probation violation charge. It had not been his first brush with the law, not by any means.

The first question was whether Jones had in fact violated the terms of his probation since those terms had not been "spelled out in writing" when he was sentenced earlier on an assault charge. A court transcript finally cleared up that question revealing, as it did, that he had been informed that he could not break the law while on probation - a usual admonition in such cases, but one questioned in the current case. Then he was arrested again on a similar charge and was hauled in for a probation hearing. Observers said that Probation Officer John Lee was "reluctant" to recommend state prison, although he did. Noting the bend-over-backwards position of the probation officer, Judge Don Chapman provided a demonstration of the court's mercy: a choice, probation and some jail time, and accept an Anabuse program (for alcohol), report to the probation officer with a strict schedule - or, go to the penitentiary. But Jones argued the matter. Disbelieving officials heard him state that he thought the probation terms were unfair - and that he preferred to go to state prison. Judge Chapman obliged.

A FEW MILES SOUTH OF THE LITTLE TOWN OF BEATTY, just across the line into Nevada, there exists in discomfiting quantities (some say several thousand tons accumulated over the years) a pile of radioactive material. It is brought there by trucks that pick it up over a big part of the United States. And now, several years after the dumpsite was established, comes the Death Valley Citizens Committee on the General Plan to cast a wary eye on those trucks and on Caltrans which regulates the routing of the trucks that haul atomic wastes to Beatty. Such trucks travel regularly through Inyo County; they have done so for years, coming from Los Angeles, San Francisco, Sacramento, and from out of state, all this to the increasing concern, however lately expressed, of a few citizens. So now it's an issue to be considered as the county updates its "general plan." Also of concern: Nevada's underground testing of atomic bombs that often rattle the Death Valley wastelands. Citizen-concern in the matters will be reflected, or so says a spokesman for the committee, in the safety and seismic safety elements of the general plan. Committee members recently conferred with members of the planning department.

Keep your date at the polls, Nov. 7

(ONLY YOU CAN CHANGE THINGS.)

eastern sierra news service

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